

skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 79, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

140. (New) A method of in vitro testing of the efficacy of a potentially active substance comprising monitoring the effect of said potentially active substance on an artificial skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 79, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

#### REMARKS

Claims 65-140 remain pending in this application after entry of the above amendments. Claims 71, 90, 91, 94, 96, 97, 122 and 125 were amended herein. Claims 133-140 were added herein. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks submitted herein.

Claims 90-97 were objected to because a multiple dependent claim cannot be dependent on another multiple dependent claim. Specifically, claims 90, 96, and 97 depended on claim 79 (among others), which is a multiple dependent claim. Claims 90, 96, and 97 have been amended to remove the dependency to claim 79. The subject matter of claims 90-97, dependent on claim 79 have been presented in new claims 133-140. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 71-73, 79-97, 122, 125 and 130 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 71 and 122 were rejected because they recited cells originating from the blood". Applicant notes that "blood cells" in claim 70 was not rejected. Therefore, claims 71 and 122 were amended to recite "blood cells" in place of "cells originating from the blood".

Claims 91 and 125 were rejected because the recitation of "the two layers" lacked antecedent basis. This phrase has been replaced with "the porous layer and the collagen membrane" in both claims 91 and 125.

Claim 94 was objected to because it lacked a method step. Claim 94 has been amended to add the phrase "adding to at least one of the porous layer and of the collagen membrane living cells selected from the group".

Conclusion

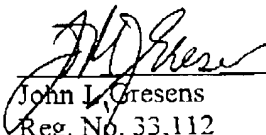
In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 75 to 140 are in condition for allowance and a notification to that effect is honestly solicited. The Examiner is intended to contact the Applicants' representative at the number below, if it would advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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8/4/03

  
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Marked up version of the claims:

71. (Twice amended) A composite skin product forming a collagen support comprising at least one porous collagen layer covered on at least one side with a collagen membrane prepared by a compression of a collagen sponge at a pressure of at least about 50 bar, said porous collagen layer comprising living fibroblasts and said collagen membrane comprising on the surface thereof living cells selected from the group consisting of: keratinocytes, melanocytes, Merkel's cells, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, sebocytes, [cells originating from the blood] blood cells.

90. (Amended) A method of reconstructing damaged areas of skin in vivo comprising performing said reconstruction with an artificial skin prepared from a product selected from the group consisting of a composite product as defined in claim 67, 71, or 76, ~~or 79~~.

91. (Amended) The method of claim 90, wherein at least one of [the two layers] the porous layer and of the collagen membrane is produced from a collagen gel containing a mixture of soluble collagen and insoluble collagen, the collagen being selected from the group consisting of type I collagen and [T]type III collagen.

94. (Twice amended) The method of claim 90, comprising adding to at least one of the porous layer and of the collagen membrane living cells selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts, and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

96. (Amended) A method of in vitro testing of the efficacy of a potentially active substance comprising monitoring the effect of said potentially active substance on an artificial skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 67, 71, or 76, ~~or 79~~, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

97. (Amended) A method of in vitro testing of the efficacy of a potentially active substance comprising monitoring the effect of said potentially active substance on an artificial

skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 67, 71, or 76, ~~or 79~~, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

122. (Twice amended) The product of claim 121, wherein said living cells on the surface of the membrane are selected from the group consisting of keratinocytes, melanocytes, Merkel's cells, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, sebocytes, and blood cells [originating from the blood].

125. (Amended) The method of claim 124, wherein at least one of [the two layers] the porous layer and of the collagen membrane is produced from a collagen gel containing a mixture of soluble collagen and insoluble collagen, the collagen being selected from the group consisting of type I collagen and [T] type III collagen.

Please add new claims 133 - 140 as follows.

133. (New) A method of reconstructing damaged areas of skin in vivo comprising performing said reconstruction with an artificial skin prepared from a product selected from the group consisting of a composite product as defined in claim 79.

134. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein at least one of the two layers is produced from a collagen gel containing a mixture of soluble collagen and insoluble collagen, the collagen being selected from the group consisting of type I collagen and Type III collagen.

135. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

136. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from elderly subjects.

137. (New) The method of claim 133, comprising living cells selected from the group consisting of fibroblasts, keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhans' cells originating from the blood, endothelial cells originating from the blood, blood cells, sebocytes, chondrocytes, osteocytes, osteoblasts, and Merkel's cells, said cells being normal, genetically modified or malignant.

138. (New) The method of claim 137, wherein said blood cells are selected from the group consisting of macrophages and lymphocytes.

139. (New) A method of in vitro testing of the efficacy of a potentially active substance comprising monitoring the effect of said potentially active substance on an artificial skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 79, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.

140. (New) A method of in vitro testing of the efficacy of a potentially active substance comprising monitoring the effect of said potentially active substance on an artificial skin prepared from a composite product as defined in claim 79, wherein said artificial skin comprises living cells obtained from young subjects.